

construction, one related to the Capitol Building itself, the other related to all of the Department of Correctional Services. We felt those were complex issues and we had not taken them. We expected to do so shortly. Then came the bad news of overprojection of revenues, or in other words a shortfall in the projected revenues expected. At that time we did go and begin to make cuts, wherever was possible, in capital construction and in operational budgets as well, but we did not make cuts in Correctional Services because we had not made any decisions at that point. So it's one of the two areas we really, technically couldn't make cuts because we hadn't made any decisions. I think we must prepare the people in the state for some more bad news. The additional bad news is this, with prison populations going up, both in the male and female institutions, despite the urgings of this Legislature, even before I arrived here, to get on with capital construction, particularly related to the so-called reformatories or medium-minimum security facilities. Yet after all of the urging of this Legislature we still do not have earth turned on either one of the two new reformatories. Not a shovel full of earth has been turned, I've been told this morning. We've been watching it carefully. So it will be 18 months at least before there is additional space of any kind available in any of the institutions for male prisoners. During this period of time I would expect that populations will continue to rise as more and more people are sentenced to our male institutions. Yet we have no space available, no additional space available. So we do need to get on with construction. It doesn't do much good for this Legislature to appropriate and authorize money if it's not expended. As Senator Warner indicated, we have authorized up to \$22 million in new construction at our Penal Complexes in Omaha and Lincoln and York. It's time to move expeditiously. I hope that is the case with the Department. I wanted to enlarge upon those comments, Senator Mills. Please be absolutely assured that we are taking a look at all of the plans of the maximum security facility. I would say that they have changed very substantially. The sizes of the medium-minimum security facilities have grown and grown. I'm not sure how big they're going to be. But if they get very big it's clearly inconsistent with the intent of this Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I guess Senator Fowler hasn't spoke up yet. I guess I've got to ask somebody on the Appropriation Committee...and I've listened to Senator Warner and Senator Bereuter. I guess I really don't know what the cut is going to delay us from having. Are we going to start construction of any kind at the Penitentiary? I'm very aware that you've got to have buildings before you can move the population. Is this the problem that we have that is facing us right now? Also, I want somebody to tell me what they're going to do for the CDU Units, what the plans of the Appropriations Committee are with Chemical Dependency. I guess I'm going to have to go to Senator Fowler, my Lincoln cohort, and have him get a little more particular. Let's be specific, let's don't be talking in generalities. I want to know what it's really going to cause in the delay of this Penitentiary and Reformatory.